

Free School Meals – October Half Term

For many children a Free School Meal will be the only meal they receive, therefore holiday hunger puts a number of children at risk.

In Hammersmith and Fulham as of the January 2020 census circa 23% of children receive free school meals across the borough. Initial responses to the October census indicates a further increase of at least 2%. This is 8%-10% above the position across England in January 2019.

On Wednesday evening the government announced that they will not be providing FSM vouchers during October half term as they had done during the Easter and Summer holidays in response to the COVID19 pandemic.

In light of this, Hammersmith and Fulham Council have committed to purchase emergency vouchers to be issued to schools for distribution to students entitled to Free School Meals.

The vouchers are paid for entirely by community contributions won by the council taking a tough approach in negotiations with property developers.

Within 24 hours vouchers have been sent to 60 schools for distribution to circa 5,000 students eligible for Free School Meals ensuring no child goes hungry during half term in H&F.

We are now looking at how we can ensure families are supported over Christmas.

